

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – OCTOBER 6, 2008

DECLARATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT EDUCATION WEEK

RECOMMENDATION

1. Councillor Shefman recommends that the City of Vaughan declares Local Government Education Week on an annual basis.
2. That City of Vaughan Councillors make themselves available to their local schools during Local Government Education Week to speak to students about the job they do and about role of local government.

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact.

Communications Plan

Corporate Communications will issue a media release and work with local schools to inform them of the opportunities for Councillors to attend and take part in educational programs supportive of this initiative.

Purpose

To formally have this event declared on a yearly basis in conjunction with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Local Government week will be held in Grade 5 and Grade 10 classes in our community schools to celebrate the key role that Local Governments play in shaping our communities.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Province of Ontario, The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), have partnered to develop Local Government Week to celebrate the key role that Ontario Local governments play in helping to define the character, priorities, amenities and physical make-up of communities.

The goal in the first year of Local Government week is to put a face to local government staff and elected officials, engage youth and create an interest in community leadership and stewardship.

All Ontario municipalities, together with local schools and teachers, are invited to participate to make Local Government week a real and relevant experience for Ontario students.

Resource guides have been developed that are intended to complement a range of cross-curricular subjects, with additional focus specifically on the Grade 5 Social Studies curriculum, and Grade 10 History and Civics curriculum. The Guides also provide information that municipal officials could use or adapt for activities and presentations for schools about local government, as part of Local Government week. Municipalities in Ontario are welcome and encouraged to explore the Local Government Teacher Guides, as well as presentations for municipalities to use, posters and more that are posted online.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council, specifically, “Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery” and “Demonstrate Leadership and Promote Effective Governance”.

Regional Implications

There are no Regional implications.

Conclusion

This declaration and the involvement of Councillors in the program will enhance the knowledge that students in the City of Vaughan will have of the role of local government.

Attachments

N/A

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Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Alan Shefman